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**Memorandum of Conversation**

Aspen Lodge

Camp David

DATE: March 20, 1959

3:00 - 4:40 p.m.

SUBJECT: Berlin, Summitry, and Reply to Soviet March 2 Note.

## PARTICIPANTS:

The President  
Mr. Herter  
Ambassador Whitney  
General Goodpaster  
Mr. MerchantThe Prime Minister  
Mr. Selwyn Lloyd  
Sir Norman Brook  
Sir Frederick Hoyer-Millar  
Sir Harold Caccia  
Mr. Bishop

## COPIES TO:

S/S - 2

W - Mr. Dillon

G - Mr. Murphy

C - Mr. Reinhardt

S/P - Mr. Smith

EUR - Mr. Merchant

Ambassy London - Ambassador Whitby

Ambassy Bonn - Ambassador Brice



The conversation then turned to Berlin. The President said that we would absolutely refuse "to throw the West Berliners to the wolves."

The President then said that a prolonged summit conference or a series of conferences would be impossible for him by reason of the requirements of our Constitution. It might be possible, however, he said, for him to go for two or

three

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three days at the opening and leave Vice President Nixon as his personal representative, returning himself at the conclusion of the conference if the results warranted it.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Herter pointed out that there were really two points at issue in our draft reply. One was the agenda and the other was the matter of a fixed date for the summit.



The President suggested that we stipulate that one of the duties of the Foreign Ministers was to explore opportunities for agreement and that dependent on their progress they could then agree on a date for the summit. He reiterated that he would not agree at this time to a fixed date and said that he thought "justify" was a good word to describe what was required of the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

[REDACTED]

The President indicated skepticism as to holding such a conference in the United States though he did mention San Francisco might be a possible location in light of its background as the scene of the foundation of the United Nations.

Mr. Herter raised the question of Czechoslovakian and Polish participation in the foreign ministers conference,

The meeting thereupon ended at 4:40 p.m.

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